

# Electronic Traffic Information Processing (eTRIP) Initiative

## ***Executive Summary***

*March 21, 2005*

### ***Current Process***

The current traffic data collection process in Washington State involves the manual entry of a large volume of collision reports and tickets *multiple times at multiple agencies*. Over 140,000 collision reports and 1,000,000 tickets are entered annually with an expected future growth rate of 10% per year. These paper-based data collection systems are subject to inefficiencies, errors, time delays and excessive costs.

### ***eTRIP Mission***

The Electronic Traffic Information Processing (eTRIP) initiative will develop and implement an automated system that will enable law enforcement agencies (LEA's) to electronically create tickets, collision reports, and other forms in the field and transmit this data to authorized users. eTRIP seeks to accomplish the Washington Traffic Records Strategic Plan by replacing paper-based collection processes and exchanges to improve statewide traffic data.

### ***eTRIP Scope***

The eTRIP initiative has been divided into separate projects that will be completed over several phases. Together, these projects will carry out the following three (3) objectives:

- Support efforts to provide law enforcement officers methods to electronically capture ticket data, collision report data and other data in the field
- Develop a statewide data exchange infrastructure to allow this data to be transmitted electronically to users
- Prepare agency systems and repositories to receive electronic traffic data

### ***eTRIP Management and Organization***

The Washington Traffic Records Committee (TRC) and the Traffic Records Oversight Committee created the eTRIP Initiative to reduce the inefficiencies of our state's current paper-based process of collecting and exchanging traffic data. eTRIP is being implemented through a collaborative partnership that includes the Washington State Patrol (WSP), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Licensing (DOL), the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and local law enforcement agencies.

### ***Traffic Data Collection Software (TCDS)***

One of the first projects of eTRIP is to develop and deploy a traffic data collection software (TCDS) application and provide it to law enforcement agencies who wish to issue citations and create collision reports electronically. The goals of the TCDS project are to:

- Enable officers to electronically capture data at the point of origin
- Incorporate driver and vehicle data through bar coded licenses and registrations
- Improve data accuracy and consistency
- Improve efficiencies and reduce costs
- Provide an electronic audit/security process
- Provide improved access to traffic data for query and analysis

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### ***Agency Impacts***

LEA's are not required to use the state's TDCS software. They can:

- Continue to use paper tickets and collision reports
- Use the TDCS provided by the state without licensing fees
- Purchase another data collection software product or use their existing software. LEA's who choose this option must use the business edits and standards published by the state to transmit data electronically. *Otherwise, agencies will need to print and submit a paper version of the ticket or collision report.*

### ***Process Effects***

The TDCS software:

- Provides a system for officers to create electronic tickets and collision reports
- Improves traffic data accuracy and consistency through the use of bar codes on licenses and vehicle registrations and the enforcement of business edits at the point of entry
- Removes redundant manual entry by enabling data to be transferred electronically
- Improves accountability and security through automated tracking of ticket numbers and collision reports
- Provides improved access to more timely data for analysis

### ***Estimated Timeframe and Work Plan***

The TDCS software is estimated to be available by the fourth quarter of 2005. Additionally, completion of the statewide data exchange network is estimated for fall of 2005. State agencies will be modifying systems and repositories to receive and file electronic data throughout 2005-2006.

### ***Cost Estimate- Funding Source***

The total cost to implement the eTRIP initiative and the TDCS software project has not yet been determined. Funding will be sought primarily from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) through the Traffic Safety Commission and from other state and federal sources.

### ***Contact information***

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### ***eTRIP Webpage***

For more information refer to the eTRIP webpage at:  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/etrip/etrip.htm>